

953
R E M A R K S

O N

THE AMERICAN
UNIVERSAL GEOGRAPHY.

BY J. F. K



PRINTED AT THE *Apollo Press*, IN BOSTON,
BY BELKNAP AND HALL,
Sold at their Office, No. 8, Dock Square. 1793.

R. M. A. R. K.

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD



THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD
LIBRARY

REMARKS, &c.

A NEW edition of Mr. Morfe's Geography has lately been published, under the title of The American Universal Geography; in which the author professes to supply the deficiencies, to correct the errors, and to meliorate the offensive passages, of the former edition. Relying upon the author's promise, I eagerly purchased the work. I have read it with attention; but I confess, I am disappointed in my expectations. Though there are in it many things, which are entitled to praise; and it is undoubtedly an improvement upon the American Geography; yet truth compels me to say, that it is still, in several respects, inaccurate, hasty, and partial.

With pleasure I specify the improvements which have been made; and they are principally the following.—The Introduction is enlarged, and appears to have been revised with care. Some useful additions have been made to the General Description of America. The Natural History of the United States is greatly improved. Since the publication of the American Geography, several valuable topographical works have appeared: among which ought to be particularly mentioned, Dr. Belknap's third volume of the History of New-Hampshire; a description of the state of Delaware by Mr. Miller; Mr.

W.'s description of Cape Cod; Mr. T.'s, of the county of Essex; and Mr. Apthorp's, of Surinam. These works have enabled Mr. M. to give more correct accounts of the several countries which they describe. He has also received many private communications, some of which are important. It is no more than justice to the American Geographer to allow, that though his work cannot always be depended upon as a safe guide, yet that it is frequently instructive, and generally entertaining. Mr. M. deserves commendation, not only for his additions, but also for some of his omissions. The plan of omitting the history of the separate states, appears to me judicious. Within the limits of a geographical grammar, it is impossible to communicate to the reader any thing more, than a very imperfect idea of the history of a state. Mr. M. therefore, in general, very properly refers to those authors, from whom, in his opinion, the most complete information can be obtained.

I could applaud many other things in Mr. M.'s book, if I conceived that it would be of any benefit to the publick. But of praise, as well from English reviewers, as from his own countrymen, the author has already received a very liberal portion. The rapid sale of at least six editions of his Geography, in various forms, affords the most substantial proof, that the work has met with a favourable reception. It is not in my power, if it were in my intention, to impede its circulation, or to injure the reputation of its author. The publick must be the best judge of the merit of a book; and to its decisions I am disposed to submit.

To me it appears a more useful, though a less pleasing task, to point out the errors, than to extol the excellen-

ces, of the Universal Geography. Without professing much acquaintance with the geography of America, I will venture to make a few observations ; which, I hope, will induce those who possess better information, to enter into a more complete examination of the subject. Such an examination will enable Mr. M. to render the future editions of his work more correct and perfect ; and with this the author himself ought not to be displeased.

The objections which I have to make against Mr. M.'s Geography, are the following:—A want of uniformity in his method and plan—Inconsistencies and contradictions—Inaccurate maps—Want of judgment in selecting his materials and authorities—Local, professional, and religious prejudices—Appearances of haste and carelessness—Mistakes and omissions.

Some geographers, in describing countries, begin at the north ; and others, at the south. Mr. M. adopts the former method ; but he does not strictly adhere to it. Cape Breton, St. John's, and Nova Scotia, are placed before Newfoundland ; Vermont, before New Hampshire ; and New Hampshire, before the district of Maine. Some may think this of little importance ; but when a correct arrangement requires no more pains than a confused one, it ought to be observed.

Another part of his plan is adopting Philadelphia as his first meridian. It is to be regretted, that Mr. M. should reject the Royal Observatory at Greenwich, with which most men of science in America are familiar. His intention may be to compliment the capital of the United States. But whilst Philadelphia continues the first city in America for populousness and wealth, it can derive little honour from being the beginning of longitude. An innovation here is like an innovation in language :

It is of no consequence where the first meridian is, provided it be fixed and in general use. A first meridian ought to be a precise point. But Philadelphia is an extensive city; and Mr. M. has not informed us, from what part of it he reckons. Add to this, that it is convenient to have the beginning of longitude, either to the east or west of every part of America; for by this means many superfluous words are saved. But whether Mr. M.'s plan be good or not, he frequently deviates from it. For beside Philadelphia, he has three other first meridians; Washington, London, and the Observatory at Greenwich.

- 2 I have commended Mr. M. for omitting the particular history of the states. But in this he is not uniform. He has detailed the affairs of Connecticut and Pennsylvania, because there are no printed histories to which he can refer. But of Rhode Island, a very good account can be found in the Century Sermon of Mr. Callender; a name entitled to a place in Mr. M.'s catalogue of eminent men. The Geographer appears to have borrowed some things from this sermon, but without acknowledging his obligations.

Lists of governours may very properly be admitted into a geographical work. I thank Mr. M. for those which he has given; and hope that in his next edition, he will endeavour to collect the names of the governours of the states, which he has omitted. This can easily be done with respect to New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island, as lists of the governours of these states have frequently been published. As he has seen fit to insert the governours of New Haven, perhaps he may think proper to add those of Plymouth. If he would avoid the charge of partiality, he ought also to

give the names of the presidents of other colleges in the United States, as well as those of Yale and Nassau.

In describing countries, it appears to be Mr. M.'s plan, 3 in his first volume, to give as the length and breadth of any state, two numbers, which, multiplied together, produce the contents. These numbers are either obtained by calculation, or arbitrarily assumed; and for the most part are very erroneous. Thus he says, that the length of Connecticut is eighty two miles, which, according to his own account, cannot be true; for its length must be either its north or south line, neither of which is eighty two miles. The breadth of a state, upon his plan, is the quotient of the number of square miles divided by the length. Thus he says, that the breadth of Connecticut is fifty seven miles, which cannot be the breadth except in one part of the state. What geographers mean by the length and breadth of a country, is the longest and broadest part. This method, which appears to me the best, is not intended to convey a perfect idea of the dimensions of a territory, which is done by specifying the number of square miles. The form of a state may be made known by a more particular description, which need not employ many words.—Mr. M.'s plan, however, exceptionable as it is, would be less confused, if he uniformly adhered to it. But he frequently deviates from it, without giving notice to the reader. The length of Massachusetts, he says, is a hundred and twenty five miles; and the breadth, fifty; and the square miles, six thousand, two hundred, and fifty. "Rhode Island is in length, sixty eight miles; and in breadth, forty;" the product of which is two thousand, seven hundred, and twenty square miles. The uninstructed reader therefore would suppose, that Rhode Island is above three sevenths of the

size of Massachusetts; when the fact is, that it is not as large as the county of Worcester.—In New York and most of the states south of it, it is not easy to say, what plan Mr. M. has followed.

Mr. M.'s American Geography contained two maps. They have been increased, he says, in the present edition, "from two to eleven:" ten, he means, for I cannot find more in both his volumes. Of these maps, four only are of the United States. The two larger maps, which are scarcely legible, appear to be printed from the worn out plates of the former edition. "The map of the Southern States, Mr. M. asserts, is the most accurate yet published respecting that country, on so small a scale."* I shall not presume to contradict him. But the map of the Northern and Middle States is one of the most inaccurate, which has ever been published upon any scale. To mention some of its blunders by way of specimen: The Sandy Point of Nantucket almost touches the Sandy Point of Chatham. Blackstone river rises near the south line of New Hampshire, many miles north of Worcester. Cambridge is south west from Boston. New Hampshire extends no further than the latitude 45° . Falmouth is at a great distance south west from Casco bay, which appears to be nothing but the mouth of Royal's river. This river is longer than Saco river. Cape Elizabeth does not form the south point of Casco bay, but is placed above forty miles south west from it. The river Ameriscoggin rises in the county of Cumberland, about the latitude 46° , and runs nearly a south course. Penobscot bay is laid down in the latitude 45° .

The map of the district of Maine is more correctly drawn. But it is defective, in laying down no islands

* Am. Geog. Pref. p. vii.

in Casco bay, and in omitting several rivers, which there is room to insert. Of Falmouth river, which, according to the map, runs into Casco bay, I have never before heard. The true name of this river is Presumpscut, which appears by the map to be the name of a town. Presumpscut river originates from Sebacock lake, and not from Tobago pond, which has no existence. Sebacock lake, according to Mr. M. is the source of a river which runs into the Ameriscoggin.

Both in this map, and in that of Pennsylvania, the rivers are made disproportionably wide; and there are few names of places. In the latter map, there are some shades, which are probably intended for mountains, but they bear a much greater resemblance to meadows. The degrees of latitude are irregularly placed; so as not to correspond with each other on the opposite sides of the map. And the scale of miles is so inaccurate, that, measuring by it, Pennsylvania is above four hundred miles in length, and above two hundred, in breadth.

Upon the whole, Mr. M.'s four maps do no honour to his work, nor to the country in which it is published. The profit which he derived from the sale of his Geography, gave the publick a right to expect, that he should, in his new edition, furnish at least eight maps of the different parts of the United States.

Another thing in which Mr. M. is peculiarly unfortunate, is his want of judgment in selecting his materials and authorities. It would be endless to point out the mistakes, into which this has led him. He seems in general, to adopt the accounts of his correspondents and living authorities, without further inquiry, or critical discrimination. Of deceased authors, Douglass appears to be one, upon whom he greatly depends. But every

man, who is acquainted with Douglass's writings, knows that he is not an authority. Not to mention that he wrote at a time, when the geography of the British colonies was imperfectly understood, he was too careless and impatient, and too full of prejudice and disdain, to be impartial and correct. There are undoubtedly many truths in his two volumes; but they are so blended with falsehoods, that it is a laborious task to separate them; and it can seldom be done, without having recourse to other authors. Governour Hutchinson, in his History of Massachusetts, has pointed out many mistakes in Douglass's Summary: and Dr. Mayhew, if I mistake not, once made a publick apology, for quoting him as an authentick writer.

An author, who like Mr. M. solicits information from all quarters, will probably receive many trifling and erroneous accounts. But uninfluenced by the motives of complaisance and gratitude to the writers, his duty to the publick requires that he should reject them. To this obligation, I believe, Mr. M. has not paid much attention. From other glaring examples, I will select the character that he has given of the inhabitants of Bermudas; which, he says, was sent to him by an intelligent gentleman, who had resided there a number of years.

§ The Bermudians have been characterized by those who have visited them, as a simple, artless, and industrious people, unpolished in their manners, uncontaminated in general with the vices which prevail in large societies, hospitable to strangers, and humane to their slaves. But see in what a ridiculous light Mr. M.'s correspondent endeavours to place them. (Vol. I, p. 676.) "However industrious the men are abroad, at home they are indolent; much given, particularly of late, to gaming and

luxury. The women are generally handsome and *comely*; they love their husbands, their children, and their *dress*. Dancing is their favourite amusement. The men must be equipped in taste, when they appear in company, should they not have a dollar in the pound to pay their creditors; the women must array themselves like the belles of Paris, should they not have a morsel of bread to preserve their blooming complexion. They are thoroughly acquainted with one another's families, and from their tea tables, as from their *atmosphere*, arises constant gusts of scandal and *detraction*. To *strangers* they are kind, but among themselves are quarrellsome. Their *friendly* intercourse is too much confined within a narrow circle, bounded by *cousins* or *second cousins*."

Is this a candid description, or is it a dull and illiberal satire? I would ask Mr. M. whether it possesses any discriminating features? Are not the men and women of other climes fond of dress, and addicted to scandal? In all small towns, the inhabitants are well acquainted with one another's families. In every part of the world, where the women are handsome, they are generally comely. Why then did not Mr. M.'s correspondent say at once, that the people of Bermudas are human beings? As it is not my design to criticise errors of style, I forbear to remark upon the properties attributed to the atmosphere of Bermudas, from which "arises constant gusts of scandal and detraction." Nor do I say, that those who confine their *friendly* intercourse to their near relations, cannot be quarrellsome among themselves, or kind to strangers. Our Geographer, in this and in many other parts of his work, seems to have forgotten the observation of Mr. Young, which is quoted with approbation in his second volume, page 167. "It is but an

illiberal business for a traveller, who designs to publish remarks upon a country, to sit down coolly in his closet and write a satire on the inhabitants. Severity of that sort must be enlivened with an uncommon share of wit and ridicule, to please. Where very gross absurdities are found, it is fair and manly to note them; but to enter into character and disposition is generally uncandid, since there are no people but might be better than they are found, and none but have virtues which deserve attention, at least as much as their failings." It is to be lamented, that Mr. M. is incapable of imitating the candour which he approves. Had he imbibed more of the spirit of Mr. Young, he would never have written his illiberal invectives against the inhabitants of Rhode Island, Maryland, North Carolina, and the southern states in general.

Next to depending upon trifling authorities, is the fault of adopting the errors of writers, who are really respectable. A universal geographer ought to receive nothing implicitly, especially if it be incredible. It is incredible that the peccary should "have its navel on the back," as Mr. M. asserts (vol. I, p. 661) upon the authority of Mr. Apthorp, who has given the publick an ingenious, and (as I have been informed by other gentlemen, who have resided in the country) accurate description of the colony of Surinam. Further inquiry would have taught Mr. M. that more than two centuries have elapsed, since anatomists have evinced, that the cavity on the back of the peccary is not its navel.*

Upon the authority of the Abbé Clavigero, Mr. M. has placed lions and tigers in Mexico (vol. I, p. 638.)

* See Buffon's Nat. Hist. of the Peccary, and Clavigero's Hist. of Mexico. Vol. I, p. 38.

But whether this be done with propriety, may be disputed. There are, I confess, in Mexico and South America, animals which bear some resemblance to the tiger; and a beast without a mane, in Mexico, called the miztli, which Clavigero will have to be a lion.* But other natural historians of reputation teach, that the genuine lion and tiger are not to be found, except in the eastern continent; and that it is confounding names and distinctions, to apply these denominations to any animals in America.

The other objections which I have urged, will, I flatter myself, be justified, by pointing out some particular mistakes in the first volume of the American Universal Geography, following the order of the pages.

I have commended the Introduction; but there are a few inaccuracies in it, probably the effect of haste, which, as the work is designed for schools and colleges, ought to be corrected.

P. 30. "The earth is something in the form of a flat turnip." This will convey a false idea to the mind of a learner. A turnip of the common form is very oblate. But a *flat* turnip, if the epithet have any meaning, must be more like a pancake than the earth.

P. 31. "Were the earth a perfect plane, the sun would appear to be vertical in every part of it." Not unless this plane were turned directly to the sun; or, in other words, unless it were perpendicular to a line drawn to the sun's centre. In every other position of the plane, the sun would appear vertical on no part of it.

P. 33. The ecliptick "makes an angle with the equator of $23^{\circ} 30'$." This is not consistent with the Table, p. 20, in which it is asserted, that the axis of the earth is inclined to its orbit $23^{\circ} 29'$.

* Hist. of Mexico. Vol. I, p. 37.

P. 49. Prop. ix. "All the inhabitants of the earth enjoy the sun's light an equal length of time." This, I believe, is not true. As the orbit of the earth is not a circle, but an ellipsis, it is a longer time in revolving from the vernal to the autumnal equinox, than from the autumnal to the vernal. Consequently the northern hemisphere enjoys more of the sun's light, than the southern; and the day at the south pole, is shorter than that at the north.

P. 56. Moonsoons are very obscurely accounted for.

P. 75. Mr. M. attempts to prove that the number of inhabitants in America must be "*considerably* less than sixty millions, seven hundred, and fifty thousand." His arguments, I doubt not, will appear conclusive to all his readers. But yet, strange as it may be thought, they do not convince himself. For in p. 82, he says, "We reckon the number of the Americans at about sixty millions."

When, and in what manner, was America peopled, are questions, which have long agitated the minds of inquisitive men. Various hypotheses have been framed, none of which are perfectly satisfactory. It is the business of a geographer to state those which are the most ingenious; but it is imprudent to adopt any one in particular, lest, when called upon, he should be unable to defend it. Mr. M. rejecting the hypothesis of Dr. Robertson, which, he says, "for want of information, is in several respects inaccurate and without foundation," embraces the opinion of the Abbé Clavigero. P. 77. The Abbé thinks it probable, that America was peopled soon after the flood, and by families dispersed by the confusion of tongues. Some of them passed from the most eastern parts of Asia; others, from the north west parts of Europe; but the ancestors of the nations of South

America, he conjectures, went thither from Africa; not by water, but over an isthmus, which formerly connected the two continents, and which has since been sunk by a succession of earthquakes. Thus does the Abbé cut the knot, which others have in vain attempted to untie.

It is not my intention to enter into a controversy with Mr. M. upon this question. But among many objections, which might be forcibly urged against the hypothesis, there is one which, I suppose, ought to have great weight in his mind. He admits, that all the inhabitants of the globe are descended from one man. If this be a truth, as I have no doubt that it is, the difference of complexion among mankind must proceed from difference of climate, and from other physical causes.* These causes operate very slowly, requiring many centuries probably, to produce any visible effect. Now Dr. Robertson and many other authors maintain, and Mr. M. has not denied it, that the Indians of America, except the Esquimaux, are similar to each other in the colour of their skins. But Mr. M. himself allows, p. 71, that "America has all the varieties of climate which the earth affords." In the eastern continent is found a great variety of complexions, corresponding with remarkable exactness to the differences of climate, and other physical causes, existing in the several parts of it.† Is it not then highly probable, that the western continent has been recently peopled?

* There is another hypothesis, that the varieties of complexion among mankind were supernaturally produced soon after the flood. But as this supposes a miraculous interposition, where there seems to be no necessity for it, I take it for granted, that it is not adopted by Mr. M.

† See Buffon's Nat. Hist. vol. I, 4to. edit.

P. 85. Mr. M. in his character of the Mexicans, mixes together qualities, which, I believe, are not often found associated in the same human being. "They are patient of injuries"—but "anxious to punish crimes." "Good faith is not so much respected as it deserves to be;"—but, at the same time, "generosity and perfect disinterestedness are striking traits in their character."

P. 99. Our Geographer gives an account of the new discoveries on the north west coast of America. But it contains several errors. Among others which might be mentioned, he says "Nootka Sound is situated in north latitude $40^{\circ} 30'$:" and that Captain Cook landed at a place on the coast of New Albion, "situated in north latitude $74^{\circ} 33'$." P. 101.

Mr. M. informs his readers in his second volume, p. 422, that the emperor of China, a century ago, "levelled the churches [of christians] with the ground, and prohibited the exercise of their religion; since which time christianity has made no progress in China." But in his first volume, p. 107, there is a very different account. He here suggests, that christianity has been restored, and that publick worship is conducted with splendour, the Chinese christians being permitted to burn fandle wood in their *churches*.

P. 109. "This year (1548—49) king Henry VII. granted a pension for life to Sabastian Cabot." Henry VII. died forty years before this period. It should be Edward VI. who began his reign 1547.

P. 124. Mr. M. is fond of the marvellous. Witness his description of the cold of Greenland; where he says, that "the ice and hoar frost reaches through the chimney to the stove's mouth, without being thawed by the fire in the day time." But though fire has no heat

in Greenland, yet it seems smoke is not entirely destitute of it. For that has power to thaw small holes through the arch of frost, which is formed over the chimney.

P. 133. "Captain Christopher attempted further discoveries [in the northern parts of America] in 1361." That is, a hundred and thirty one years before the voyage of Columbus.

Mr. M.'s description of Canada contains several mistakes. In his American Geography there is a short account, which is more correct. Had he not been in too much haste, he would not probably have deviated from it in his present edition.

P. 135. "Upper and Lower Canada comprehend the territory heretofore called Canada, *or* the Province of Quebec." Canada is a vast country, of which the old province of Quebec, limited by act of parliament, is a part only.

"Length, six hundred miles; breadth, five hundred and fifty: situated between 61° and 81° , west longitude from London." The limits of Canada to the west, are not defined; but it extends at least as far as the longitude 96° , from London. Its length is above fourteen hundred miles; but its breadth, in the widest part, is short of five hundred miles. 6 -

"Bounded east, by part of the province of New Brunswick." It is bounded south by New Brunswick, as Mr. M. himself says in the next paragraph. Canada is bounded east, by New Britain and the gulf of St. Lawrence.

"The river St. Lawrence, *below* Quebec, is of sufficient depth for ships of war. It falls into the *ocean* at Cape Rosieres by a mouth ninety miles broad." This river is of sufficient depth for ships of war, many miles,

above Quebec. It falls into the gulf of St. Lawrence, by a mouth above a hundred miles broad.*

P. 136. "Quebec is covered with a citadel, in which the governour resides." The governour of Quebec does not reside in the citadel.

X "The number of inhabitants is computed at about fifteen thousand." In the year 1784, according to the American Geography, Quebec contained six thousand, four hundred, and seventy two inhabitants. At present the number is somewhat more.

X "The haven is about five fathoms deep." It is from five to twenty five fathoms deep.

"The harbour is flanked by two bastions." The harbour of Quebec is not flanked by bastions.

P. 137. "The town called Trois Rivieres has its name from three rivers which join their currents here, and fall into the river St. Lawrence." There is not but one river at Trois Rivieres. This river has three channels, which are formed by two small islands lying at its mouth.

"The fortifications [of Montreal] have been much improved by the English." The fortifications of Montreal are going to decay, and have never been repaired by the English.

X Under the article, Government, Mr. M. omits the most distinguishing feature of the constitution of the two provinces; which is, that the king may annex to hereditary titles of honour, the right of being summoned to the legislative council.

* In this and many of the following corrections of the Universal Geography, I rely upon the Charts published by Des Barres, for the use of the Royal Navy of Great Britain. The reputation of these charts is so well established, that it is unnecessary to urge any thing in their commendation.

P. 139. "Cape Breton lies between the latitudes 45° and 47° , north; and between 59° and 60° , west longitude from London. It is about a hundred miles in length, and fifty in breadth." Cape Breton is situated between $45^{\circ} 28'$ and $47^{\circ} 2'$, north latitude; and between $59^{\circ} 44'$ and $61^{\circ} 29'$, west longitude from London. The length is a hundred and nine miles; and the breadth, eighty four miles. In the narrowest part, it is about twenty miles. x

"Except in the hilly parts, the surface of the country has but little solidity, being every where covered with a light moss and with water.—The soil is unfit for agriculture." I have seen a late account which says, that there is a great proportion of arable land on this island.

P. 140. "A great quantity of soft wood was found there, fit for firing, and *some* that might be used for timber." Cape Breton abounds in timber. See l. 36, and p. 141, l. 5.

Mr. M.'s account of Cape Breton, is rather a description of what it was under the French, than what it is at present.

P. 141. "Nova Scotia [including New Brunswick.] Length, four hundred miles; breadth, three hundred; situated between $43^{\circ} 30'$ and 49° , north latitude; and between 60° and 67° , east longitude from London." Nova Scotia (including New Brunswick) is in length, three hundred and seventeen miles; and in breadth, two hundred and fifty four; and is situated between $43^{\circ} 30'$ and $48^{\circ} 4'$, north latitude; and between 61° and 67° , ~~west~~ longitude from London.

"Bounded on the north, by the river St. Lawrence." It is bounded on the north, by Lower Canada, from which it is separated in part, by the bay of Chaleurs, and the river Restigouche, which Mr. M. calls Ristgonche.

P. 143. "St. John's river is navigable for vessels of fifty tons, sixty miles." It is navigable for floops to Frederick town, which is ninety miles.

"The bay of Verte is separated from the bay of Fundy by a narrow isthmus of about eighteen miles wide."

X This isthmus is fifteen miles wide.

Gaspee bay is not in New Brunswick, where Mr. M. places it, but in Lower Canada. Several important bays are omitted; among which are, Miramichi, in New Brunswick; and Frederick, George, Torbay, Charlotte, King's, Barrington, Townshend, St. Mary, Annapolis Royal, and the basin of Mines, in Nova Scotia.

P. 144. "Halifax is said to contain fifteen or sixteen thousand inhabitants." Halifax contains four thousand inhabitants.

"Frederick town is the capital of the province of New Brunswick." St. John's is the capital of New Brunswick.

"During a great part of the year, the atmosphere is clouded with thick fog, which renders it unhealthy for the inhabitants." Those who have lived in Nova Scotia, affirm, that the climate is remarkably healthful. The climate of this country cannot differ much from that of Cape Breton; and of the latter Mr. M. has spoken in the following terms, p. 139. "The dampness of the soil is exhaled in fogs, without rendering the air unwholesome." Can opposite effects arise from the same cause? Mr. M. has mistaken the origin of the fog, which is not from the land, but the sea.

The American Geographer has given too unfavourable a description of the soil of this country. In New Brunswick, there are extensive tracts of excellent land. And even in the peninsula of Nova Scotia, there are many

large and well cultivated farms. The inhabitants have lately made great improvements in husbandry, for the encouragement of which an agricultural society has been instituted.*

P. 145. "The island of St. John's is about sixty miles long." It is a hundred and three miles long, and from ten to thirty five miles broad. ✕

P. 146. "Newfoundland is situated between 46 and 52 degrees of north latitude; and between 53 and 59 degrees, west longitude: being five hundred and fifty miles long; and two hundred, broad." Newfoundland is situated between $46^{\circ} 45'$ and $51^{\circ} 46'$, north latitude; and between $52^{\circ} 31'$ and $59^{\circ} 40'$, west longitude from the Observatory at Greenwich; which according to Mr. M.'s Table, at the end of his second volume, is $0^{\circ} 5' 37''$, east from St. Paul's, London. The length, from north west to south east, is three hundred and eighty one miles: the greatest breadth, two hundred and eighty seven miles; and the breadth, in the narrowest part, about forty miles.

Mr. M. omits the other islands which are in the gulf of St. Lawrence. The most remarkable are Anticosti, the Magdalen Isles, and Isle Percée.

Anticosti lies near the mouth of the river St. Lawrence; and is a hundred and twenty six miles long, and thirty two miles broad. It has no good harbours, and is uninhabited.

The Magdalen Isles are a string of islands, lying in longitude $61^{\circ} 40'$, west from the Observatory at Greenwich, and extending from $47^{\circ} 13'$ to $47^{\circ} 42'$, north latitude. They are inhabited by a few fishermen. These

* See the valuable pamphlet just published by the Trustees of the Massachusetts Agricultural Society, p. 35—45.

islands were formerly the haunts of sea cows ; which are now nearly exterminated. Though Mr. M. enumerates the sea cow among the animals of the United States ; yet I have been informed by a gentleman, who is well acquainted with its history, that it is not found further south than Louisbourg.

Isle Percée, which lies about five leagues south of Cape Gaspee, is very small ; but it deserves to be mentioned as a curiosity. It is a perpendicular rock, and is *pierced* with two natural arches, through which the sea flows. One of these arches is sufficiently high, to admit a large boat to pass freely through it.

P. 148. In describing the part of the United States, which is "to be disposed of by order of Congress, when purchased of the Indians," Mr. M. is not very clear. Its northern boundary, he says, "extends from the river St. Croix to the Lake of the Woods." Congress has now no lands to dispose of, east of Lake Erie. He should therefore say, that the northern boundary of this territory extends from the Lake of the Woods, to the north west corner of Pennsylvania.

P. 151. "A small river, just before it enters the lake, [Superiour] has a perpendicular fall from the top of a mountain, of more than a hundred feet." Carver describes this fall as six hundred feet high.

P. 154. "The falls of Niagara are a hundred and fifty feet perpendicular." The height has frequently been measured, and found to be less than a hundred and fifty feet. When exact numbers have been ascertained, round numbers ought not to be used.

P. 162. In his account of the bays of the United States, the American Geographer is very far from being correct. Many important bays are omitted, to make room for

"the gulf of St. Lawrence, Chedabukto and Chebukto bays, in Nova Scotia, and the bay of Fundy;" none of which are within the limits of the United States.

"Long Island sound is about one hundred and forty miles long, extending the whole length of the island." The Sound does not extend the whole length of Long Island; and is not much more than a hundred miles long.

P. 163. "The Chesapeek is one of the largest bays in the known world. It extends two hundred and seventy miles to the northward, dividing Virginia and Maryland." There are many bays in America and other parts of the world, larger than the Chesapeek; which does not extend two hundred miles to the northward. It is not easy to determine, what Mr. M. intends by "*dividing* Virginia and Maryland." If his meaning be, that the whole of Maryland is on one side of the bay; and the whole of Virginia, on the other; this is not true. If his meaning be, that the Chesapeek divides them, as Connecticut river divides Massachusetts and Connecticut, by running through them; he has expressed himself with great obscurity.

P. 233. Under the head of Commerce, Mr. M. has very properly introduced the Abstract of goods exported from the United States, from the 1st of October, 1790, to the 30th of September, 1791. The amount is, seventeen millions, five hundred and seventy one thousand, five hundred and fifty one dollars, and forty five cents. The reader would be enabled to form a more complete idea of the commerce of the United States, if the amount of exports for the year preceding, had also been inserted. It appears from an Abstract of Exports, published in Mr. Fenno's Gazette, that, from the commencement of the custom houses in the several states, which was at differ-

ent times in August, 1789, to the 30th of September, 1790, there were exported goods and merchandize, amounting to the value of twenty millions, four hundred and fifteen thousand, nine hundred and sixty six dollars, and eighty four cents.*

P. 243. Mr. M. assigns as the principal cause of the increasing manufactures of the United States, "the prevailing disposition among the European nations, and particularly Great Britain, to restrict and embarrass their external trade." This may be one cause; but there are several others, which are more operative.

XX

P. 253. The degeneracy of the congregational churches from that order, fellowship, and harmony, in discipline, doctrines, and friendly advice and assistance in ecclesiastical matters, which formerly subsisted among them, is matter of deep regret to many, not to say most people of that denomination." That the congregational churches of New England have degenerated from that harmony, which formerly subsisted among them, if by harmony be meant fraternal affection, is not true. At no period has christian charity prevailed, more than at present. Both ministers and people cheerfully mix with each other in society, regardless of difference of sentiment. That the congregational churches do not agree in *doctrines*, as much at present, as before the age of Edwards and Mayhew, must be allowed. This may be a matter of deep regret to Mr. M. But I have the pleasure of being acquainted with many congregational ministers, who, viewing it as the unavoidable effect of the spirit of free inquiry and zeal for truth, prevailing in New England,

* The exports for the year, ending the last day of September, 1792, amounted to the value of twenty millions, five hundred and eighteen thousand, and fourteen dollars. See *Columbian Centinel*, No. 975.

rather rejoice than repine at it. But, if it be an evil, it cannot be remedied except by that Being, who only has power to harmonize the discordant sentiments of mankind. A confociation of churches, which Mr. M. seems to desire; an examination of candidates for the ministry, as to their opinions; a subscription to articles of faith; and the other methods usually practised by religious establishments; would not, in the present state of manners in New England, and under the free constitutions of government which the people happily enjoy, be followed by the effects which Mr. M. wishes. So far from producing a harmony in discipline and doctrine, these causes would split the congregational church into a number of distinct sects, and would destroy that harmony of affection, which is its peculiar honour.

P. 261. Mr. M. gives the number of the Wesleyan methodists in the United States; but he has made a mistake in his arithmetick, which is a common fault with him.

P. 265—268. A very exceptionable part of Mr. M.'s work, is his account of that class of universalists, who are the followers of Mr. Murray. The American Geographer here throws aside all appearances of candour. Instead of an impartial representation of the sentiments of this sect, he adopts the style of controversy. His attack is ungenerous; because, according to his own assertion, these universalists are a very small body. It is ungenerous; as they have not the power of defending themselves upon equal ground. Mr. M.'s Geography will probably circulate through every part of the United States. It will be read in families, and taught in schools and colleges. The youth of America will be instructed

by him, to look upon the universalists with contempt and abhorrence. Whilst any defence which they may make of themselves, can be communicated by no other medium, than newspapers or other fugitive publications, which, as soon as they are read, are thrown aside and forgotten.

Mr. M. asserts, that these universalists "differ not only from all other universalists, and from each other, but even from themselves at different times." He affirms, that "their notions respecting the ordinances are vague and unsettled." He charges them with contradiction, and want of grammatical propriety. And he sneers at them, when they "profess themselves to be the advocates of piety, religion, and morality." Though it may be thought presumption in me, to vindicate a sect, which the American Geographer has condemned; yet I will venture to say, that his representation is unfair and erroneous. Enjoying the happiness of a large acquaintance with this class of universalists, having frequently heard their preachers, and read many of their printed books and letters in manuscript,* I will take the liberty to give it as my opinion, that they are as uniform in their religious creed, as most other sects of christians. Their sentiments and conduct respecting the ordinances, appear to me to discover a liberality, in what they suppose to be mere shadows, or things indifferent: and Mr. M. himself ought to allow, that charity is better than ordinances. In purity of morals, I do not perceive that they are inferior to other christians. Though they de-

* In the year 1777, I was favoured with the perusal of a long letter, written by the head of this denomination, and expressing sentiments perfectly consistent with those contained in his Letter to a Friend, printed in the year 1791.

ny the doctrine of everlasting misery, yet they have other motives to influence them to virtue. They inculcate the necessity of obeying the commands of God their saviour. They reject with indignation, the licentious consequences, which their enemies deduce from their principles.

Mr. M. attacks with more caution the Chauncean universalists. But, by comparing one part of his book with another, it is plain enough to be seen, that he would censure them with as much harshness, as the other class of universalists, if he did not think them more formidable for their number and abilities. He quotes with much art the words of Mr. Murray, who calls them "pharisaical universalists, who are willing to justify themselves." In p. 264, he says, "The *open* advocates of this scheme are *few*." But in p. 253, he affirms, "That a *number* [of congregationalists] have adopted Dr. Chauncy's scheme." Unless therefore, a *few*, and a *number*, mean the same thing, it must be Mr. M.'s intention to insinuate, that the disciples of Dr. Chauncy are dishonest men, who do not *openly* advocate, what they *secretly* believe.

In the History of the United States, Mr. M. has made one or two mistakes. P. 277, he affirms, that about seventeen persons, in Boston, destroyed the East India Company's tea. Many persons, well acquainted with that transaction, are still living. From them he might have learned, that a much greater number were engaged.

P. 291. "Major Andre, *aid* to General Clinton." Major Andre was adjutant general of the British army.*

P. 294. "The peace was negotiated on the part of Great Britain by David Hartley." The peace was ne-

* Gordon's Hist. of Amer. Rev. vol. III, p. 481.

gotiated by Mr. Ofwald.* The definitive treaty was signed by Mr. Hartley.†

P. 296. "Enemies to the revolution multiply the apprehensions of people, and increase the popular discontents." What right has Mr. M. to say, that these persons were enemies to the revolution? Did they acknowledge that they were? On the contrary, however unjustifiable their conduct, did they not always profess, that they were friends to the liberty and independence of the United States?

An interesting article, which Mr. M. omits, is the present state of learning, and an account of the most distinguished authors now flourishing in the United States. There are, it is true, a few hints, scattered about in different parts of his work; but he has not treated the subject professedly. Though our country is still in its infancy, yet we can already boast of many good writers. What an American geographer would have most to guard against, is exaggerated applause. We cannot pretend to vie with the English, French, and some other nations of Europe. But our countrymen have afforded sufficient proofs, that they are not destitute of genius.

P. 310. "New England lies between 41 and 46 degrees, north latitude." According to Mr. M.'s own maps, New England extends as far north as the latitude 48°. This is, that its northern limits are not precisely known, but they are probably not further north than the latitude 47°.

New England "curves to the eastward, almost to the gulf of St. Lawrence." It does not approach within a hundred miles of the gulf of St. Lawrence.

* Ramsay's Hist. of Am. Rev. vol. II, p. 306. Gordon, vol. IV, p. 332—360.

† Gordon, vol. IV, p. 392.

P. 316. "The expression of a wish to be promoted [to an office of publick trust] is, in some parts of New England, the direct way to be disappointed." In New England, it is accounted indecorous in those who aspire after publick offices, to propose themselves as candidates. The general practice is to solicit them through the medium of their friends; and this is the most usual way of obtaining them.

P. 322. "Vermont. Length, a hundred and fifty miles; breadth, seventy: situated between $1^{\circ} 35'$ and $3^{\circ} 30'$, east longitude from Philadelphia." According to Blodget's map, Vermont is situated between $1^{\circ} 44'$ and $3^{\circ} 35'$, east longitude from Philadelphia. The meridian length is a hundred and fifty seven miles and a half; the length of the north line, seventy seven miles; and of the south line, thirty eight miles. President Langdon's map makes the length of the south line, thirty six miles.

P. 329. "New Hampshire. Breadth, sixty miles." The breadth of New Hampshire, according to Mr. M.'s plan, ought to be fifty six miles, the quotient of the square miles divided by the length. Dr. Belknap says, that the greatest breadth of New Hampshire is ninety miles; and that its breadth, on the 45th degree of latitude, is nineteen miles.

"Situated between $4^{\circ} 30'$ and $6^{\circ} 17'$, east longitude" [from Philadelphia.] That is, the longitude of Philadelphia from the Observatory at Greenwich, is $76^{\circ} 57'$ or $58'$; for we are informed by Dr. Belknap, whose authority in whatever relates to New Hampshire must be viewed as decisive, that this state lies between $70^{\circ} 40'$ and $72^{\circ} 28'$, west from that meridian. It is impossible from the Universal Geography, to determine the longitude of Philadelphia. In p. 139, Mr. M. suggests, that

it is situated 74° , west from London. In p. 484, he makes the difference of longitude between these two meridians, 75° . But in the Table, at the end of his second volume, he raises it to $75^{\circ} 9'$. The longitude of Philadelphia is $75^{\circ} 3' 8''$, west from London, or $75^{\circ} 8' 45''$, from the Observatory at Greenwich. Consequently New Hampshire is situated between $2^{\circ} 41'$ and $4^{\circ} 29'$, east longitude from Philadelphia.

P. 330. "Moose *hillock* mountain." The name of this mountain in Dr. Belknap's History, is Mooshelock.

P. 336. "A few miles from the entrance [of the Winipiseogee branch of Merrinack river] into the Pemigewasset, is a place called the Wares, remarkable for the number of salmon and shad which are here caught." Salmon do not pass up Winipiseogee river.

P. 343. In the Table, at the end of his second volume, Mr. M. makes the longitude of Portsmouth $70^{\circ} 43'$, west from London. According to Dr. Belknap, it is $70^{\circ} 41'$, west from the Observatory at Greenwich.

P. 345. "District of Maine. Length, a hundred and seventy miles: situated between 4° and 9° , east longitude; and between 43° and 48° , north latitude." The American Geographer has forgotten, that he said, p. 310, that New England, of which Maine is the most northern part, extends no further than the latitude 46° . The south point of this district is in the latitude $43^{\circ} 4'$. A part of the western line lies in the longitude $4^{\circ} 11'$, east from Philadelphia. The extent to the northward is unknown. The eastern limits are disputed. The sea coast, according to Mr. M. p. 347, is two hundred and forty miles in extent. This I suppose to be near the truth. The length of Maine therefore must be at least

two hundred and forty miles. According to Mr. M.'s own map, it is about three hundred miles.

P. 346. "Portland; latitude $43^{\circ} 43'$." The latitude of Portland is $43^{\circ} 39' \frac{1}{2}$.

P. 347. "From the head of the tide, to the head of the bay, to the site of old Fort Pownal, the river [Penobscot] is remarkably straight. Passing by Majabagaduse, on the east, seven miles, and Owls head, twenty miles further, on the west, you enter the ocean." This is not accurate. Penobscot river, in the best maps, does not appear remarkably straight; and Owls head is above twenty miles from Majabagaduse.

P. 348. "Noneseuch river receives its name from its extraordinary freshets." Noneseuch river, which is nothing but a small creek, does not receive its name from extraordinary *freshets*.

Mr. M. omits many important bays and rivers.

P. 349. "In the counties of York and Cumberland, fruit is as plenty as in New Hampshire." Fruit is not plenty in these two counties. Cider is made by very few, except in the townships near Portsmouth. In Cumberland, there are no orchards worth mentioning, except in Falmouth, North Yarmouth, Gorham, and Scarborough.

P. 350. "Town schools are very generally maintained in most of the towns that are able to defray the expense." This is a great mistake. The neglect of the inhabitants in providing school masters for their children, is notorious.

"The inhabitants [of Portland] are largely concerned in the fishery." They have not more than two schooners employed in this business. Fish, it is true, are exported from Portland; but they are purchased in Boston,

and of the shore fishermen along the coast; principally in the former place.

P. 351. "Hallowell is situated in latitude $44^{\circ} 40'$." Hallowell is at least $23'$ south of this latitude.

It appears from Fleet's Register for 1793, which is acknowledged to be a very authentick work, that there are a hundred and fifty townships and plantations in the district of Maine; but not more than fifty five settled ministers: of whom thirty nine are congregationalists; fourteen, baptists; one, a presbyterian; and one, an episcopalian. In addition to these, there is a Roman catholic missionary at Passamaquaddy.

"The remains of the Penobscot tribe consist of about a hundred families. The tribe is increasing, in consequence of an obligation laid, by the sachems, on the young people, to marry early." The Penobscot tribe, at present, consists of less than three hundred persons. It is true that the young people marry early; but notwithstanding this, their numbers are decreasing.*

P. 353. "Massachusetts. Length, a hundred and twenty five miles; breadth, fifty: situated between $1^{\circ} 30'$ and $5^{\circ} 40'$, east longitude; and between $41^{\circ} 30'$ and 43° , north latitude: contains six thousand, two hundred, and fifty square miles." The south part of the county of Barnstable is in the latitude of $41^{\circ} 30'$. But if the island of Nantucket be included, Massachusetts is situated between $41^{\circ} 13'$ and $42^{\circ} 52'$, north lati-

* I am indebted for this correction to a Topographical and Historical Account of the district of Maine, written by the Attorney General of Massachusetts. Having been indulged with a perusal of the author's manuscript, it would be easy to point out several other mistakes in Mr. M.'s description of Maine; but as the work will be soon published, it is unnecessary.

tude; and between $1^{\circ} 21'$ and $5^{\circ} 11'$, east longitude from Philadelphia. The length of a line, drawn from the north west corner of the state, to Plumb Island, is a hundred and twenty miles; and from the south west corner of the state, to Marshfield Point, a hundred and fifty eight miles. If the latter be extended to the high land of Truro, the length of Massachusetts will be a hundred and eighty nine miles. The breadth of the state, in the county of Berkshire, is forty eight miles and a half; the breadth, in the widest part, ninety miles. As there has never been a complete survey of the state, it is impossible to determine with exactness, the number of square miles. But from the best materials which I have been able to procure, I estimate them in round numbers, at nine thousand. If this estimate be just, the population for every square mile is forty two, and not sixty, as Mr. M. supposes.

P. 354. Mr. M. is not accurate in describing the course of Charles river. Sherburne and Natick are situated north west of it; and Dover, south east. It does not run "through Newton," but divides that township from Needham, Weston, and Waltham.

P. 355. He omits several small rivers, which empty themselves into Buzzard's bay, and which are of as much importance as Parker's or Neponset river.

"The only capes of note are Cape Ann and Cape Cod." There are other capes well known to seamen: viz. Cape Malabar, or Sandy Point, which extends ten miles south from Chatham, toward Nantucket; Cape Poge, the north east point of Chappaquiddick; and Gay Head, the west point of Martha's Vineyard.

The topographical description of the county of Barnstable, published in the third volume of the Massachusetts

Magazine, does great credit to its author, as well for its accuracy in general, as for the elegant and sprightly manner in which it is written. With part of this Mr. M. has enriched his Geography: but, with his usual haste, he has not thought proper to inquire, whether alterations have not taken place since the year 1791; or whether the description be in any part erroneous.

The county of Barnstable is a long and narrow peninsula, the whole of which is commonly called Cape Cod, though that name ought to be confined to the northern point. The length of this peninsula is sixty three miles.* The number of square miles is four hundred; and of inhabitants, who have increased since the year 1790, about eighteen thousand. The soil is in general sandy; and there are few stones below Harwich. The eastern shore is gradually wasting; and the western shore, gaining upon the bay, at least in some places. Cape Cod harbour is capacious, and safe, except a strong wind blows from the south east, when vessels are exposed to drag their anchors, the bottom being sandy. Province town contains a hundred and ten families, who employ twenty eight sail of vessels in the cod fishery. Not more than two of the houses are set upon piles: the rest have cellars. The distance from the village to Wood End is two miles.—The reader, by comparing these particulars with Mr. M.'s description, p. 355—358, will perceive in what respects he is supposed to be erroneous.

P. 358. There are other bays on the coast of Massachusetts, beside those which Mr. M. has enumerated.

* See Collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society, vol. III, p. 12. Mr. Mellen makes the length, as the road runs, sixty five miles: but as measured upon the charts of Des Barres, from Buzzard's bay, through the middle of the land, the length is not more than sixty three miles.

“Nantucket sends one representative to the general assembly.” A foreigner, in reading this, and what is said of Duke’s County, p. 359, line 21, would suppose, that the towns of Massachusetts are, by law, unalterably restricted in the number of their representatives, without regard to their population. The truth is, that “representatives are chosen by the several towns, according to their numbers of rateable polls.” P. 379. The inhabitants of Nantucket have at present a right to elect five representatives; and they have frequently chosen more than one.

Mr. M. seems not to know when Nantucket was settled. But if he would inquire of some of the intelligent inhabitants of the island, they could inform him, that Nantucket was granted to Thomas Mayhew, by the earl of Stirling, in the year 1641; and that the settlement by the English commenced in the year 1659.—Many interesting particulars respecting Nantucket might be obtained, by taking some pains.

P. 359. “Martha’s Vineyard is about twenty one miles in length.” Martha’s Vineyard, exclusive of the island of Chappaquiddick, is nineteen miles in length.

“This and the neighbouring island constitute Duke’s County, containing three thousand, two hundred, and sixty five inhabitants, between four and five hundred of whom are Indians and mulattoes.” Martha’s Vineyard, and the neighbouring island of Chappaquiddick, together with Nomansland, and the Elizabeth Islands, constitute Duke’s County, containing between three and four thousand inhabitants, beside about four hundred and forty Indians and mulattoes. The Elizabeth Islands, which Mr. M. does not think of sufficient importance to be mentioned, contain about sixteen thousand, five hundred acres. The soil in general is fertile, whilst that of Mar-

tha's Vineyard is sandy, gravelly, and for the most part barren. There is some good land in it, as Mr. M. suggests; but about two thirds of the island are shrub oak plain.

"Chabaquidick is three miles long." Chappaquidick, from Cape Poge to Waque Point, is six miles long.

"The other islands of consideration are in Massachusetts bay." Massachusetts bay is here confounded with the harbour of Boston. See p. 373, line 30.

A very imperfect idea is given of the soil and productions of Massachusetts. To say, that "all the varieties of soil, from very good to very bad, are to be found," without specifying, at least in general terms, the proportion of each, and describing more particularly the soil in different parts of the state, is not satisfactory to a reader of curiosity.

P. 360. "The staple commodities of this state are fish, beef, and lumber." Are no other articles which are exported from Massachusetts, staple commodities?

P. 363. "In this state are twelve paper mills." There is a paper mill in Springfield, and perhaps others, which Mr. M. has omitted.

P. 366. "Lynn beach may be reckoned a curiosity." By none, except those who never saw any other "smooth and hard" beach on the sea coast. A shore of this nature is too common in New England, to be considered as a curiosity.

P. 367. "Yellow and red ochre have been discovered at Martha's Vineyard." I add, and in other places.

"The American Academy has a committee, by the name of the Agricultural Committee." This was once true; but Mr. M. himself informs us, p. 369, that this "committee is dissolved."

P. 368. In addition to the huts which Mr. M. enumerates, the Humane Society have erected one at Stout's Creek, near Cape Cod.

P. 369. Several societies in Massachusetts are omitted.

P. 371, 372. Mr. M. has given an imperfect and confused account of Harvard University.

"Essex bank, at Salem, was incorporated 1792." Essex bank is not incorporated.

"Boston lies in latitude $42^{\circ} 23'$, north." This is near the truth ; but it does not correspond with the latitude assigned to Boston in p. 41, which is there $42^{\circ} 25'$. The American Geographer has given three different longitudes to Boston, none of which are right : p. 41, " $70^{\circ} 37'$, west longitude from Greenwich ;" p. 39, " $70^{\circ} 25'$, west from London ;" vol. II, p. 522, " $71^{\circ} 4'$, west" from the same meridian.

P. 373. "The buildings in the town cover about a thousand acres. It contains nearly two thousand dwelling houses, and about twenty thousand inhabitants." The peninsula of Boston does not contain more than seven hundred acres ; and large spots of land are not covered with buildings. In the year 1790, there were two thousand, three hundred, and seventy six houses, and eighteen thousand and thirty eight inhabitants. Since that time new houses have been built, and the number of inhabitants has increased. XX

"The harbour of Boston is diversified with forty islands, which afford rich pasturing, hay, and grain." Unless every rock and sunken island be included, there are not forty islands in the harbour. Of these islands, not more than fifteen are of much importance for their size or productions. The greatest number are small and of little value.

"Boston was settled as early as the year 1631." Boston was settled in 1630.

P. 376. Charlestown, according to the Table at the end of the second volume, lies 32', east from the meridian of Boston. These two towns are under the same meridian.

P. 377. "Plymouth contains about three hundred houses." In the township of Plymouth, a tract fifteen miles long, and five, broad, there are about three hundred houses. But the town consists of less than two hundred. What most readers of the Universal Geography will understand by a town, is a collection of houses. Some of Mr. M.'s New England towns hardly deserve the name of villages.

"Courts are held in Hadley and Deerfield." They are not held in these two places.

"Lenox [is one of] the principal towns in Berkshire county." Lenox is the shire town of the county of Berkshire; but in wealth, it ranks the tenth township, and in population, the fourteenth. There is in it no collection of houses, which is entitled to a more important name than that of a hamlet.

P. 378. The statement of the number of the several religious denominations in Massachusetts is very erroneous, as well as inconsistent with other parts of the Universal Geography. "We reckon the number of inhabitants in the state at three hundred, and fifty eight thousand, seven hundred, and ninety eight." Mr. M. knows very well, that in the year 1790, there were, in Massachusetts and Maine, four hundred and seventy five thousand, three hundred, and twenty seven inhabitants. But he has adopted his statement from a former edition; and is in too much haste, to make it agree with the census.

"Congregationalists, four hundred congregations; baptists, eighty four; presbyterians, four; universalists, two."

In p. 252, he says, that there are four hundred and forty congregational societies. In p. 257, he states the baptists at a hundred and seven churches. According to Fleet's Register, there are five presbyterian churches, and one society of methodists. Mr. M. is disposed to lessen the number of the universalists; but they have at least four congregations in Massachusetts. He supposes "that each religious society, of every denomination, is composed of an equal number of souls:" and he says, that his "apportionment of the different sects is perhaps as accurate, as the nature of the subject will allow." It is not as accurate as he himself might have made it, with very little pains. The episcopalians are few, and their societies, except one in Boston, bear no proportion to those of the congregationalists. The societies of the baptists, with some exceptions, are also small. If Mr. Asplund's supposition (p. 257) be just, the number of this denomination is not more than twenty one thousand, three hundred, and forty eight. Making the most liberal deductions for the other denominations, the number of congregationalists, in Massachusetts and Maine, may be estimated at four hundred and thirty four thousand. Mr. M. states it at two hundred and seventy seven thousand, six hundred.

P. 379. "Taxes are levied on all males between sixteen and fifty, except such as are exempted by law." Poll taxes are levied on all males who are upwards of sixteen, except such as are exempted by law, or who are excused by poverty, age, or infirmity.

"They [the general court] meet annually on the last Tuesday in May." This mistake is repeated from former editions.

XX
 P. 381. "Rhode Island, and Providence Plantations. Length, sixty eight miles; breadth, forty miles: situated between 3° and 4° , east longitude; and between 41° and 42° , north latitude." Rhode Island is situated between $3^{\circ} 11'$ and $4^{\circ} 1'$, east longitude; and between $41^{\circ} 22'$ and $42^{\circ} 2'$, north latitude. The south part of Block Island is in the latitude of $41^{\circ} 8'$. The length is forty six miles. The breadth, in the widest part, is thirty eight miles; and in that part of the state which lies west of Narraganset bay, twenty three miles. The number of square miles is about thirteen hundred; and the population for every square mile, fifty three.

P. 382. The island of "Rhode Island is thirteen miles in length." From Common fence Point, to Brenton's Point, in a straight line, the distance is sixteen miles. The length of the island, on a meridian, is fourteen miles and a half.

"Canonnicut Island is six miles in length." Canonnicut Island is above eight miles in length.

"Prudence Island is nearly or quite as large as Canonnicut." Prudence Island, which is six miles long, in a straight line, and near eight, following its curves, is about one half the size of Canonnicut.

P. 383. Mr. M. does not appear to be pleased with the state of religion in Rhode Island. The unlimited toleration, which has always existed in this state, has produced a variety of sects; and this our Geographer considers as a very serious evil. But this is not the worst effect. For "there is a considerable number of the people, who can be reduced to no particular denomination;" or, as Mr. M. expresses it in a former edition, who "are, as to religion, strictly nothingarians." And, "in many towns, publick worship is too much neglected by the

greater part of the inhabitants." Mr. M. uses words in so loose a sense, that it is not easy to say, what he means by *considerable number*, *many towns*, and *greater part*. Perhaps therefore, he will not charge me with contradicting him, when I assert, upon the authority of some respectable gentlemen of Rhode Island, that there are a few only of the people of this state, who do not class themselves with some religious sect; and that in few of the towns, publick worship is neglected by the greater part of the inhabitants. In this neglect Rhode Island is not peculiar; for there are some towns in Massachusetts (to say nothing of other states) in which a majority of the people do not attend publick worship.

This reproach against Rhode Island is not new. For the friends of religious establishments have always viewed the people of this state with an evil eye; and have readily given credit to every slanderous report, which has been raised against them. The candid and excellent Mr. Callender, above fifty years ago, observed, that the inhabitants of Rhode Island were "represented as living without a publick worship, and as ungospelized plantations." But he then asserted, and it must still be acknowledged, that "notwithstanding the liberty and indulgence allowed, the form of godliness was every where maintained."* It is true, that the "people pay no taxes for the support of ecclesiasticks of any denomination:" but there is no township in the state, which has not one or more religious societies. The fact is, that the religious societies are numerous, in proportion to the population; there being above eighty of various denominations. Of these, not more than eighteen are destitute of ministers. There are, in proportion, as many vacant churches in Massachusetts.

* Century Sermon, p. 68.

"A peculiarity which distinguishes this state from every other protestant country in the known world is, that no contract formed by the minister with his people, for his salary, is valid in law. So that ministers are dependent wholly on the integrity of the people for their support, since their salaries are not recoverable by law." It is not my intention to vindicate this regulation ; but I would, on this occasion, adopt the words of Mr. Candler :* "That man, who will go about to justify, or condemn, a party, in the gross, and without distinction, shall never be approved or imitated by me." It appears to me, that the zeal of the inhabitants of Rhode Island against religious establishments, honourable as it is to them in general, has, in some instances, hurried them into the opposite extreme. Mr. M. however, in my opinion, has expressed himself with too much warmth. For though the law is wrong, yet the people have so much integrity and generosity, that no bad effects result from it. This the American Geographer is compelled to acknowledge in his present edition. For he now observes, what he ought to have known nine years ago, "that the clergy in general are liberally maintained, and none who merit it, have reason to complain for want of support."

Not satisfied with representing the inhabitants of Rhode Island as irreligious, in the same page, Mr. M. represents them as an ignorant people. "The literature of this state is confined principally to the towns of Newport and Providence. There are men of learning and abilities scattered though other towns, but they are rare. The bulk of the inhabitants, in other parts of the state, are involved in greater ignorance perhaps, than in

* Century Sermon, p. 52.

most other parts of New England. An impartial history of their transactions since the peace, would evince the truth of the above observations." Mr. M. qualifies this investive with the words *principally* and *perhaps*, which, in some degree, blunt the edge of it. He may think me too confident in assertion, when I say, that the literature of the state is not confined to Newport and Providence; and that though there may not be as many men of learning, as in the two adjoining states, yet that the inhabitants are not involved in greater ignorance, than the inhabitants of many other parts of New England. An impartial history of some transactions of the government of Rhode Island, since the peace, I confess, would not be very honourable to those who were engaged in them. But the people ought not, on account of them, to be charged with ignorance. A few designing men may, for a time, lead even a well informed people, into absurd and dishonest measures. During this period, as Mr. M. says, p. 302, "the state was governed by a faction." Plausible reasons were urged in favour of a paper medium, by men who were more corrupt than ignorant; and those who opposed this measure, though numerous and respectable, were out-voted. At the present moment, the inhabitants of Rhode Island are as judicious in their conduct, and as firm in the support of the federal government, as their neighbours. They ought therefore to recover their reputation with the American Geographer.

Mr. M. is offended with the people of Rhode Island, for rejecting the federal constitution in their town meetings. (See p. 306.) But though this government has been found, upon experiment, to promote the happiness of the people; yet Mr. M. may remember, that when it

was first proposed, the minds of many good men, in other states, were alarmed with fears and jealousies. The majority of the Rhode Island convention, which finally adopted it, was indeed small. But it may be asked, which is most honourable to a community, to examine a constitution of government with care; to hesitate for a while; to reject, because it was supposed imperfect; but at length, overcome by convincing evidence, as well as by a sense of interest, to adopt, and when adopted, firmly to support: or, to receive implicitly, and without inquiry and without debate, to vote unanimously?

If the transactions of a legislature must fix the stamp of knowledge or ignorance upon a people, Massachusetts came very near being involved in the same reproach, which Mr. M. has cast upon Rhode Island. A small change in the general court, would have introduced a paper currency, which must necessarily have depreciated; and a trifling alteration in the convention of 1788, would have ensured the rejection of the federal constitution. In five counties there was a majority of votes against it. But no candid man, I presume, will affirm, that those counties are involved in greater ignorance, than some counties, in which there was a majority in its favour.

In every edition of Mr. M.'s Geography, he repeats the charge of ignorance against Rhode Island. This want of candour probably proceeds, in part, from religious prejudice. For "the *baptists* are the most numerous of any denomination in the state." Where the baptists predominate, there, in the American Geographer's opinion, ignorance must abound. That this is his sentiment, he has declared in sufficiently plain terms, in his *Geography Made Easy*, New Haven, 1784. For in that book, p. 32, he speaks of the baptists of Massachusetts in the following manner: "The baptists are a numerous,

growing, litigious, and illiterate set of people." It is true that Mr. M. omitted this passage in his subsequent editions. But whilst he fixes the stigma of peculiar ignorance upon a state, where the baptists are the most numerous, it discovers no want of candour to believe, that he still retains the same prejudice against that worthy body of christians.

If the baptists be ignorant, as the American Geographer insinuates, it is not owing to their not taking pains to obtain knowledge ; nor can they be justly charged with being hostile to learning. Chiefly through their patronage, a college has been founded in Rhode Island, and is now in a flourishing state. Ignorant men are frequently illiberal. But the college of Rhode Island is upon a remarkably liberal plan, and does great credit to its founders. In conferring literary honours, and in the choice of instructors, the fellows and trustees have been guided by the most generous and catholic spirit ; and have paid no regard to distinctions of sects, or difference of sentiment.

In a word, many things may be urged in favour of Rhode Island, by a writer disposed to do justice to the state. This happy spot can boast the distinguished honour, of being the first in setting the example of an unlimited toleration ;* an example which has since been followed by every other state in the union. Except in a few dark intervals, the civil and religious freedom which it has enjoyed, has rendered its situation peaceable and happy. At present, it is in a very prosperous condition.

* "It is much to the honour of the government of Rhode Island, that there never was an instance of persecution for conscience sake countenanced by them." Belknap's Hist. of N. Hampshire, vol. I, p. 89.

In proportion to its extent, it is the most populous of any of the United States. In proportion to its population, it is the most commercial; if we may form our judgment from its exports, which last year, amounted to the value of six hundred, and ninety eight thousand, and eighty four dollars. Its merchants are enterprising; and the people in general, industrious. The manners and virtues which render society pleasing, are as often displayed in this, as in any other state.* The fathers of the colony, Williams and Coddington, were not inferior in merit to the founders of the other North American colonies. Nor has the state, in any period, been destitute of eminent men, who have done honour to their country by their abilities and virtue.

P. 387. "Newport lies in latitude $41^{\circ} 35'$." The latitude of Newport is $41^{\circ} 30'$, and the longitude, west from London $71^{\circ} 12'$, and not $71^{\circ} 6'$, as Mr. M. says, vol. II, p. 528.

P. 389. "Bristol is about sixteen miles north of Newport." The distance between these towns is thirteen miles.

P. 391. "As the original inhabitants of this state were persecuted, *at least in their own opinion*, for the sake of conscience, a most liberal and free toleration was established by them."—Is it Mr. M.'s opinion, that the settlers of Rhode Island were not persecuted? "So little has the civil authority to do with religion here, that, as has been already hinted, no contract between a minister and a society (*unless incorporated for that purpose*) is of any force. It is probably for *these reasons*, that so

* "Benevolence and hospitality remarkably characterize the people of Rhode Island." Constitutions of the United States, p. 51, 2d edit. Boston, 1784.

many different sects have ever been found here; and that the sabbath and all religious institutions, have ever been more neglected in this, than in any other of the New England states." It must afford pleasure to the candid reader to contrast these hints, against a *free toleration*, and in favour of the *civil authority's* interfering in religion, with the manly and christian sentiments of the baptist Callender, expressed in the following extract from his Century Sermon, p. 103—109.

"Liberty of conscience was the basis of this colony. Our fathers thought it just and necessary to allow each other mutually to worship God, as their consciences were respectively persuaded. They thought no man had power over the spirit of God; and that the duty of the magistrate was to leave every man to follow the light of his conscience. They were willing to exhibit to the world an instance, that liberty of conscience was consistent with the publick peace, and the flourishing of a civil commonwealth; as well as that christianity could subsist without compulsion; and that bearing each other's burdens, was the way to fulfil the law of Christ.

—"The experiment has fully answered, and even beyond what might have been expected, from the *first* attempt. The civil state has flourished as well, as if secured by ever so many penal laws, and an inquisition to put them in execution. Our civil officers have been chosen out of every religious society; and the publick peace has been as well preserved, and the publick councils as well conducted, as we could have expected, had we been assisted by ever so many religious tests.

"All profaneness and immorality are punished by the laws made to suppress them; and while these laws are well executed, speculative opinions, or modes of worship.

can never disturb or injure the peace of a state, that allows all its subjects an equal liberty of conscience. Indeed it is not variety of opinions, or separation in worship, that makes disorders and confusions in government: It is the unjust, unnatural, and absurd attempt to force all to be of one opinion, or to feign and dissemble that they are.—

“Liberty of conscience was never more fully enjoyed in any place, than here: and this colony, with some since formed on the same model, have proved that the terrible fears, that barbarity would break in, where no particular forms of worship or discipline are established by the civil power, are really vain and groundless; and that christianity can subsist without a national church, or visible head; and without being incorporated into the state. It subsisted so for the first three hundred years; yea, in opposition and defiance to all the powers of hell and earth.”

P. 392. “Connecticut. Length, eighty two miles; breadth, fifty seven: situated between $1^{\circ} 50'$ and $3^{\circ} 20'$, east longitude.” The difference of longitude, between the north east corner of Thompson, and the north west corner of Greenwich, is as much as $1^{\circ} 56'$. Mr. M. makes the difference of longitude, between the eastern and western extremities of the state, no more than $1^{\circ} 30'$.

P. 393. “The divisional line between Connecticut and Massachusetts, as settled in 1713, was found to be about seventy two miles in length. The sea coast, from the mouth of Paukatuk river, to the mouth of Byram river, is reckoned at about ninety miles.” According to Blodget's map, the north line of Connecticut is ninety four miles in length; and the distance between the mouth of Paukatuk river, and the mouth of Byram riv-

er, a hundred and three miles. Of Blodget's map I have heard this character, from the first authority, that it is the best which has hitherto been published; that it is erroneous in several minute parts, but that the outlines of the state are accurate. It is one confirmation of it, that it corresponds exactly with Holland's correct chart of the sea coast, published in 1787. This map therefore appears to me a better authority than Douglass's Summary, from which Mr. M. has borrowed his lines.* The length of Connecticut, from the north west corner of Greenwich, on a due east line, to the longitude of Paukatuk river, is about a hundred miles. The breadth, in the widest part, is above seventy two miles, if, as I conjecture, the north west corner of the state is situated further north than the latitude $42^{\circ} 2'$. The line dividing Connecticut from Rhode Island, is, as Mr. M. states it, forty five miles.† The contents of the state are about five thousand, four hundred square miles; and the population for every square mile, forty four. According to Mr. M. "Connecticut contains about four thousand, six hundred, and seventy four square miles; equal to about two millions, six hundred, and forty thousand acres." He has here made another mistake in his arithmetick.

P. 398. "Connecticut is the most populous, in proportion to its extent, of any of the *thirteen* states." Rhode Island is the most populous of any of the *fifteen* states. If we must believe Mr. M. however, in another part of his work, Massachusetts, exclusive of Maine, is the most populous part of the United States. See p. 353.

Under the head of the Character of the inhabitants of Connecticut, the American Geographer has an oppor-

* See Dougl. Sum. vol. I, p. 416, and vol. II, p. 161.

† A point of Rhode Island extends about a mile further south.

tunity of discovering his prejudice against lawyers. He seems to consider it as an evil, that there is "a numerous body" of them in the state. In another part of his work, he triumphs in the idea, that a lawyer cannot live within sixty miles of the county of Cape May, in New Jersey. See p. 466. But these facts prove no more, than that Connecticut is a rich and populous state; and that the southern part of New Jersey is a barren country, and thinly settled. In the first edition of his Geography, he spoke in much plainer terms against the gentlemen of the bar:* "Lawyers have united here, [in South Carolina,] as well as in most other states, the skill and dexterity of the scribe with the power and ambition of the prince: who can tell where this may lead in a future day? The nature of our laws, and the spirit of freedom, which often tends to make us litigious, must necessarily throw the greatest part of the property of the United States into the hands of these gentlemen. In another century, the law will possess in the north, what now the church possesses in Peru and Mexico." It must, in justice to the American Geographer, be acknowledged, that he has become more candid, since he wrote, or rather copied, this invective. For in his present edition, he describes lawyers as a harmless sort of animals, which, like rattlesnakes, never bite those who do not come within their reach. See p. 466. "Many of the people here, [in New Jersey,] as in other states, think (because perhaps they are instruments in obliging them to pay their debts) that the lawyers know too much. But their knowledge will not injure those who are innocent, and who will let them alone."

* Geography Made Easy, p. 81.

"Religion. Such as is happily adapted to a republican government. As to the mode of exercising church government and discipline, it might not improperly be called a republican religion." Mr. M. probably intends here the congregational religion. But no satisfactory reason can be given, why it is more happily adapted to a republican government, than many other religions in the United States.

Republican, however, as the congregational religion is, yet, it seems, the ministers of it are aristocrats. For in the paragraph preceding that which I have just quoted, Mr. M. says, "The clergy, who are numerous, and, as a body, very respectable, have hitherto preserved a kind of aristocratical balance in the very democratical government of the state; which has happily operated as a check upon the overbearing spirit of republicanism." That the ministers of Connecticut are a very respectable body of men, I fully believe. And that they have always deservedly enjoyed a large share of influence in the state, I also allow. But it appears to me nothing better than an abuse of words, to style this an aristocratical influence. The ministers of Connecticut are chosen by the people, and are dependent upon them for their support. Their salaries are small, and are not sufficient to raise them above their parishioners. They are affable in conversation, hospitable to strangers, pure in their morals, and of exemplary piety. As they are laborious in the duties of their profession, attentive in discharging the offices of humanity, the friends and the fathers of their flocks, it is not to be wondered at, that their influence should be great among an intelligent and religious people. In Connecticut, as Mr. M. suggests, knowledge is more generally diffused, than in any other part

of America. In every parish are to be found men of liberal education, lawyers, physicians, and others, who are generally the firmest supports of an enlightened ministry. Instead therefore of denominating the influence of the clergy of Connecticut, an aristocratical influence; it ought rather to be denominated the influence of wisdom, virtue and, piety.

P. 401. "A fair is held [at Wethersfield] twice a year." I have been informed, that a fair is not now held at Wethersfield.

To conclude my remarks upon the description of Connecticut, I am ready to acknowledge, that it is written with more care, and is probably more accurate, than any other description which is properly Mr. M.'s own. Some readers may charge him with being partial to his native state. But to me it appears, not that he has done Connecticut more, but that he has done other states less, than justice.

As I possess very little knowledge of the middle and southern states, it is not in my power to make many remarks upon the remaining part of the first volume. I shall, however, note a few errors, and some prejudices.

P. 417. "New York is situated between $40^{\circ} 40'$ and 45° , north latitude; and between 5° , west, and $1^{\circ} 30'$, east longitude." Including Long Island, New York is situated between $40^{\circ} 30'$ and 45° , north latitude; and the state extends as far east as $3^{\circ} 6'$, east longitude. Long Island ought undoubtedly to be included, as it is separated from York Island by a river only, which, in the narrowest part, is less than half a mile in breadth.

P. 431. "An inquirer, who would wish to acquaint himself with the state of the people of New York, their manners and government, would naturally ask the citizens

for their societies for the encouragement of sciences, arts, manufactures, &c ? For their publick libraries ? For their patrons of literature ? Their well regulated academies ? For their female academy for instructing young ladies in geography, history, belles lettres, &c ? Such inquiries might be made with propriety, but could not at present be answered satisfactorily." When this passage was first written, there might be some propriety in it. But it ought not to have been admitted into the present edition. For Mr. M. informs the publick, p. 439, that there are in the city of New-York, a "society for promoting useful knowledge, upon an establishment similar to other philosophical societies in Europe and America ; a society for the manumission of slaves ; a marine society ; a society for the relief of poor debtors confined in jail ; a manufacturing society ; an agricultural society ; and a medical society." To these he might add the St. Tammany Society, the objects of which are similar to those of the Historical Society of Massachusetts. Beside these societies, there is a college in the city of New York, and eight incorporated academies in different parts of the state.—A New York inquirer, in return, might ask Mr. M. for the philosophical societies of some of his favourite states. But such inquiries could not at present be answered satisfactorily. The truth, however, is, that the learning of a country cannot always be determined from the number of its literary societies. *Conspici quam prodesse*, ought in general to be the motto of such institutions. Their most important labours are commonly performed in the infancy of their existence. But after a few years, the majority of members satisfy themselves with annexing to their names the empty title of an F. R. S. and leave

the improvement of the arts and sciences to the literary industry of individuals, who are no academicians.

P. 443. "In all debates on great questions, the house [of assembly] resolves itself into a committee of the whole." This is not peculiar to New York.

P. 450. "Long Island extends a hundred and forty miles." Long Island extends a hundred and eighteen miles.

P. 451. "Staten Island is about eighteen miles in length." Staten Island is about thirteen miles and a half in length.

P. 466. "It is remarkable that in the county of Cape May, [in New Jersey,] no regular physician has ever found support." This wonderful county of Cape May, in which the vermin of the learned professions can find no support, is "thirty miles long, and nine, broad. The soil is a sandy barren, unfit in many parts for cultivation;" and the inhabitants are no more than five hundred and seventy one. Province town in Massachusetts, described by Mr. M. p. 355, contains nearly as many inhabitants as the county of Cape May. No regular physician has yet ventured to approach this favoured spot; and what is still more to its honour, a lawyer cannot live within forty miles of it.

P. 473. "Buffalo Swamp is in the north western parts of Northumberland county," [Pennsylvania.] If this swamp exist any where, it must be in the state of New York; where indeed Mr. M. places it in one of his maps.

In p. 522. Mr. M. begins to discover his prejudices against the southern states. He gives a long character of the inhabitants of Maryland, and describes them as negligent in dress, slothful, and ignorant. "These obser-

vations, however, (he adds) must in justice be limited to the people in the country, and to those particularly, whose poverty or parsimony prevents their spending a part of their time in populous towns, or otherwise mingling with the world. And with these limitations, they will apply equally to all the southern states."

In his American Geography, p. 353, Mr. M. spoke of the inhabitants of Baltimore in the following terms : "There are many very respectable families in Baltimore, who live genteely, are hospitable to strangers, and maintain a friendly and improving intercourse with each other ; but the bulk of the inhabitants, recently collected from almost all quarters of the world, bent on the pursuit of wealth, varying in their habits, their manners, and their religions, if they have any, are unsocial, unimproved, and inhospitable." This is one of the offensive passages, which the American Geographer has undertaken to meliorate ; and the manner in which he has acquitted himself, proves how unwilling he is to give up any prejudice which he has once imbibed. In the present edition, he expresses himself thus : "There are many very respectable families in Baltimore, who live genteely, are hospitable to strangers, and maintain a friendly and improving intercourse with each other ; *but* the bulk of the inhabitants, recently collected from almost all quarters of the world, bent on the pursuit of wealth, varying in their habits, their manners, and their religions, *have yet their general character to form.*" The passage, as it now stands, either means nothing ; or it means, that the bulk of the inhabitants of Baltimore are not hospitable to strangers, and do not maintain a friendly and improving intercourse with each other ; or, as was before said, that they are unsocial, unimproved, and inhospitable.

The description of Virginia is borrowed principally from Mr. Jefferson's Notes : Mr. M. has added little else than some illiberal censures on the inhabitants.

P. 551. " Every thing in Williamsburgh appears dull, forsaken, and melancholy—no trade—no amusements, but the infamous one of gaming—no industry, and very little appearance of religion." Thus minutely does the Geographer from New England describe the character of a handful of people ; and thus inhumanly does he insult the falling.

P. 554. " Virginia prides itself in being The Ancient Dominion." Such an observation as this, though trifling, may be characteristick of a people ; and if made with good humour, cannot give any reasonable offence. A Virginian would not be suspected of ridiculing the inhabitants of New England, if he should observe, That they pride themselves in speaking the English language with greater purity, and pronouncing it with more propriety, than the H—s, the J—s, the M—s, the R—s, the S—s, and the W—s, of the middle and southern states. See p. 212, 314.

P. 555. " The government, though nominally republican, is, in fact, oligarchal or aristocratical."

" The Virginians, who are *rich*, are in general sensible, polite, and hospitable, and of an independent spirit. The *poor* are ignorant and abject—and are all of an inquisitive turn. A considerable proportion of the people are much addicted to gaming, drinking, swearing, horse racing, cock fighting, and most kinds of dissipation." This I believe, from the best information which I have had an opportunity of obtaining, is much too general a censure.

"The native inhabitants are too generally unacquainted with business, owing to their pride and false notions of greatness."

"The two houses of assembly have the appointment of delegates to Congress." When Mr. Jefferson wrote his Notes, this was true; but since that time, the constitution of the United States has been established.

P. 562. "Kentucky contains five thousand square miles." This, and every other error of the press, ought to be acknowledged in a table of errata.

"Kentucky is bounded south by North Carolina." Kentucky is bounded south by the Tennessee Government. See p. 584.

P. 563. "Cumberland river, in about half its course, passes through North Carolina." This is not consistent with what is said of this river, p. 587.

P. 575. "Edenton has a brick church for *episcopalians*, which for many years has been much neglected, and serves only to show that the people once had a regard, at least, for the externals of religion."

P. 578, 579. "The western parts of this state, [North Carolina,] are chiefly inhabited by presbyterians, and are exceedingly attached to the doctrine, discipline, and usages of the church of Scotland. They are a regular, industrious people; and are in general well supplied with a sensible and learned ministry.—The inhabitants of Wilmington, Newbern, Edenton, and Halifax districts, making about three fifths of the state, once professed themselves of the *episcopal* church." But they "seem now to be making the experiment, whether christianity can exist long in a country, where there is no visible christian church." This reflection upon the episcopalians is

copied from the former edition. I have been informed by a New England gentleman, who has lived many years in Newbern, that it is as erroneous, as it is ungenerous.

"There is a very numerous body of people, in this, and in all the southern states, who cannot properly be classed with any sect of christians, having never made any profession of christianity."

P. 581. "The general topicks of conversation among the men, when cards, the bottle, and occurrences of the day do not intervene, are negroes, the prices of indigo, rice, tobacco, &c." In other parts of the United States, the general topicks of conversation among the men, are also pleasure, news, and business.

"Temperance and industry are not to be reckoned among the virtues of the North Carolinians." Mr. M. knows that drunkenness is a common vice in many parts of New England.

"The time which they waste in drinking, idling, and gambling, leaves them very little opportunity to improve their plantations or their minds. The improvement of the former is left to their overseers and negroes; the improvement of the latter is too often neglected."

"The citizens of North Carolina, who are not better employed, spend their time in drinking, or gaming at cards and dice, in cock fighting or horse racing." The citizens of other states, when they are not better employed, spend their time in idleness and dissipation.

Mr. M. is more sparing in his censures upon the inhabitants of South Carolina and Georgia. Lest I should be thought too severe, I shall omit the character which he formerly gave of the people of the latter state. It is evident from the passages which I have quoted, that his mind is not free from local prejudice. He does ev-

ery thing in his power to raise the character of the eastern states, Rhode Island excepted, and to depress that of the southern states. Should any person at the southward undertake a new American Geography, I hope the spirit of retaliation will not lead him to paint our faults in too glowing colours. We supplicate for mercy. Our fellow citizens may be assured, that there are many persons in New-England, who are as much disgusted as they can be, with Mr. M.'s illiberality and gross misrepresentations.

P. 613. Mr. M. relates an idle story of a fairy island, inhabited by a race of beautiful and hospitable women, the daughters of the sun, whose husbands are fierce men and cruel to strangers. Those who endeavour to approach this island, are involved in perpetual labyrinths; and, like enchanted land, still as they imagine they have just gained it, it seems to fly before them.—Surely such a fiction as this ought not to be admitted into a book of a geography.

P. 615. "Frederica is the *first* town that was built in Georgia."—P. 622. "Mr. Oglethorpe, accompanied by William Bull, shortly after his arrival [at Charleston] visited Georgia, and after reconnoitering the country, marked the spot on which Savannah now stands, as the fittest to begin a settlement. Here they accordingly *began*."

It is not my intention at present, to make any other remarks on the first volume of the American Universal Geography.

The second volume is taken from Guthrie's Geographical Grammar, with additions from Zimmerman's Political Survey, and from other works. In some respects, particularly in the account of Ireland, it is an improve-

ment upon the London editions of Guthrie. But it appears to have been compiled in a very hasty manner. For there are many mistakes in arrangement, in arithmetick, chronology, and geography. Some of these mistakes must be charged to Guthrie; and others, to Mr. M. In this volume there are three maps only, upon a very small scale. As particular maps, therefore, are so essential to a geographical grammar, Mr. M. cannot reasonably expect that his compilation should supersede the original work.

The Geographical Table, at the end of the volume, is inconsistent, imperfect, and inaccurate. Many important places are omitted; and the latitudes and longitudes of those which are inserted, are frequently wrong. Mr. M. ought not to have trusted to Guthrie; but he ought to have taken time to compare this table carefully, with the most authentick maps which can be procured.

The catalogue of Men of Learning and Genius is a very imperfect list of the literati of Europe and America. Sufficient honour is done to Roscommon, Creech, Whitehead, and other minor poets and trifling authors, whose writings have contributed very little to the knowledge or happiness of mankind: whilst no notice is taken of such men as Grotius, Le Clerc, Lardner, Price, Wollaston, Bentley, Jortin, Pearce, and innumerable others, who have distinguished themselves in the cause of virtue and religion. The names of the four latter are in Guthrie's catalogue. The American Geographer must have some reason for omitting them; but I am unable to conjecture what it can be.

Mr. M. has added a few American authors to Guthrie's list. But the first, whom he has thought worthy of being associated with the "learned and eminent men" of

Europe, died no longer ago than the year 1747. For his neglect of the worthies who flourished before that period, as well as of some good writers who have appeared since, no other apology can be made, than that he drew up his list in such haste, that he had not time to reflect or to inquire. This apology may satisfy his own mind, but it will not satisfy the publick.

Though I have freely censured so many parts of Mr. M's work, yet respect for him obliges me to say, before I conclude, that he does not want abilities, and that he appears to be a friend to religion. He is zealous against vice, as well as error. But his zeal is too credulous and hasty, and is frequently ill timed and misplaced. In a work of another kind, Mr. M. might very properly declaim against drunkenness, gaming, and even heresy. But to listen to every exaggerated account of the faults of a town or state, and then to publish it in a system of geography, may demonstrate his hatred of vice, but it affords no proof of his judgment or candour. With the talents which Mr. M. possesses, it is in his power to render his work much more complete than it is at present. But for this purpose, he must employ time and pains, without which nothing excellent can ever be produced.

THE END.

*If these remarks, as I suppose,
come from the pen of Mr. Freeman
they are entitled to much respect on
point of Authority. He is accurate.*

ADDITION and CORRECTIONS.

Page 13. after line 18, insert the following :

P. 20, Note. "Herschel is about eighty times larger than the earth, which would make its diameter six hundred and thirty seven thousand, six hundred miles." The diameter of the earth being seven thousand, nine hundred, and seventy miles, if the diameter of Herschel be six hundred and thirty seven thousand, six hundred miles, it must be five hundred and twelve thousand times larger than the earth.

P. 16, l. 8, from bot. read Sebastian.

P. 25, and in other places, r. universalists.

P. 27, l. 17, r. congregationalists.

20 JY 63

